

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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DEPT. PLEASE TRANSMIT OAU COLLECTIVE AND ALL ARAB CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PORG OAU XF
SUBJECT: AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT

REF: CAIRO 3416

1. FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR FIRST AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT BEGINS MARCH 3 AMID CONFUSION OVER WHO ON HAND. REPORTS CONFLICT ON NUMBER AND IDENTITY OF ATTENDEES, BUT MFA SOURCES PUT TOTAL AT 61 COUNTRIES AND SIX LIBERATION GROUPS. SOMALI DIPLOMAT CLAIMS, PROBABLY ACCURATELY, THAT GOE KNOWS LITTLE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE HOW MANY CHIEFS OF STATE WILL ACTUALLY COME. LATEST CONFIRMED PARTICIPANT, ACCORDING TO PRESS, IS IDI AMIN, WHO HAS CABLED NOTIFICATION TO CAIRO. WE SENDING SCORECARD AND LIST OF STARTING PLAYERS SEPTTEL.

2. PRESS STATES THAT OBSERVERS WILL INCLUDE SEVEN RPT SEVEN UNIDENTIFIED LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WHO WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO CLOSED SESSIONS. OTHER OBSERVERS WILL BE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA, WEST AFRICAN
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ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND CENTRAL AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, WHICH SEEM TO INDICATE ACCURATELY WHERE PRINCIPAL AFRICAN INTEREST IN SUMMIT LIES.

3. LOCAL MEDIA EFFORT IS CONCENTRATED ON PRESENTING SUMMIT AS EXERCISE IN SOLIDARITY BETWEEN AFRICANS AND ARABS. ISSUES BEING FLOATED AS MOST LIKELY TOPICS OF DISCUSSION, EITHER

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, ARE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, RHODESIA, ARAB INVESTMENTS AND AID TO AFRICA, MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN BORDERS AND SAHARA DISPUTE.

4. TWO BASIC ISSUES SEEM TO BE AT HEART OF SUMMIT. FIRST IS ECONOMIC, IE, AFRICAN VIEWS THAT RICH ARABS HAVE GIVEN INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS INTEREST IN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT. RECENT REPORTING FROM MISSIONS IN AFRICA SHOWS THAT AFRICANS INCREASINGLY ARTICULATING THE FEELING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SHORTCHANGED BY ARABS IN RETURN FOR UNWAVERING DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT ON MIDDLE EAST. RESENTMENT AGAINST INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS WILL BE LIMITED BY VENUE TO FAMILIAR DECLARATIONS WITH ARABS JOINING IN. WE WOULD EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT ARABS CAN COUNT ON SERIOUS PRESSURE FROM AFRICANS FOR BETTER ECONOMIC DEAL. FONMINS, IN FACT, WILL REPORTEDLY PRODUCE DOCUMENTS DEALING WITH TANZANIAN WORKING PAPER PROPOSING TWO BILLION DOLLAR ALLOCATION FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT. COMPLEMENT WILL PROBABLY BE COMPLAINT OF LACK OF SUBSTANTIAL ARAB ACTIVITY ON AFRICAN LIBERATION.

5. SECOND ISSUE, STEMMING FROM FIRST, WILL BE ARAB EFFORTS TO COUNTER WANING AFRICAN SUPPORT AND MAINTAIN CRACK-FREE FACADE ON MIDDLE EAST, MOST IMPORTANTLY. ARABS MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO AFRICANS PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF PERSISTENT EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN DEMANDS FOR VASTLY INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE AT LEAST SOME ECONOMIC GESTURES, HOWEVER, AND SEEM TO BE ATTEMPTING TO SET COOPERATIVE TONE FROM THE START. WE HAVE MARCH 3 PRESS REPORT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT ARABS HAVE DECIDED RAISE ANTE TO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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\$231 TO 700 MILLION. FIGURE SEEMS IMPROBABLY HIGH TO US, (WE HAVE REPORTED SEPARATELY THAT ARAB BANK FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT REP HAS TERMED SIMILAR PRESS REPORTS EXAGGERATED AND STATED THAT NOTHING YET FINALIZED) BUT FIGURE BEING WIDELY BANDIED ABOUT IN CAIRO. PENURIOUS ARABS SUCH AS EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS MAY WELL BE DUNNED FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN AFRICA VIA REQUESTS FOR MORE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN MILITARY TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION FRONTS.

6. CERTAIN SPECIFIC ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ALSO SAID TO BE ABORNING. FONMINS ARE TO CONSIDER A "CAIRO POLITICAL DECLARATION" WHICH WOULD BECOME CHARTER FOR AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION AND WHICH WOULD CALL FOR CONVENING OF SUMMIT EVERY THREE YEARS WITH A JOINT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING EVERY TWO YEARS AND SEPARATE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO MEET SEMI-ANNUALLY TO REVIEW PROGRESS IN COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. DECLARATION ALSO REPORTED TO CONTAIN PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AFRO-ARAB COURT OR "CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION COMMITTEE" AS WELL AS SPECIAL FUND TO FINANCE WORK OF EXECUTIVE BODIES CHARGED WITH

IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM OF COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS.

7. IN CAIRO, AS IS PROBABLY CASE ELSEWHERE, BILATERAL ANTAGONISMS PROVIDING INTERESTING LOCAL SIDESHOW. MARCH 3 PRESS GIVES PROMINENT ATTENTION TO PERFIDIOUS LIBYAN EFFORTS TO "UNDERMINE" SUMMIT, REPORTING LIBYAN CAMPAIGN TO POSTPONE SUMMIT OR HOLD MEETING AT LOWER LEVEL. AT LOME MEETING, LYBYANS ALLEGEDLY SPREAD WORD THAT ARABS ARE UNPREPARED FOR CONFERENCE AND HAVE NO INTENTION OF INCREASING ASSISTANCE TO AFRICANS. FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY HAS HEWED TO THIS LINE PRIVATELY, ADDING THAT QADHAFI HAS PRESSED HARD FOR REPRESENTATION AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL ONLY.

8. EGYPTIANS, MEANWHILE, SETTING THEMSELVES UP FOR STARRING ROLE IN PROCEEDINGS OF NEXT SEVEN DAYS. FONMIN FAHMY WILL OPEN SESSIONS WITH ADDRESS TOUCHING ON EGYPTIAN POLICY TOWARDS AFRICA AND EGYPTIAN SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. FAHMY WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOUBTLESSLY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS POSITION AS HOST FONMIN TO REMIND ALL CONCERNED THAT AFRO-ARAB RELATIONS MUST BE DEFINED IN TERMS OF RELATIONS WITH EGYPT. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO NOTE EXTENT TO WHICH AFRICANS BUY THIS LINE OR SEEK, INSTEAD, TO CONDUCT SERIOUS BUSINESS WITH ARAB OIL STATES.

9. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CONFEREES WILL BE KEPT UNDER TIGHT SECURITY WRAPS DURING PREPARATORY SESSION AND SUMMIT ITSELF AND DIPLOMATS WILL BE PREVENTED ENTRY TO MEETINGS AND HOTELS. WE WILL, HOWEVER, SUBMIT AS COMPLETE AS POSSIBLE DAILY REPORT BASED ON PRESS AND OTHER CONTACTS.
EILTS

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